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*MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS*
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

24 September 1985

Dr Michael Knoch
C/- Igreja Evangelica
Presbiteriana de Portugal
Av. do Brasil 92, 2-D°
1700 Lisboa
PORTUGAL

Dear Dr Knoch

Thank you for your letter of 26 August and for the interest you have shown in the New Zealand Government's anti-nuclear policies. It is heartening to have your support.

You have asked me about my Government's attitude towards the reports of human rights violations which continue to be received from East Timor. I should like to assure you that we share your deep concern about conditions in East Timor and we do not hesitate to let the Indonesian authorities know our views on this subject. We consider that we can best help to improve conditions by making representations to senior representatives of the Indonesian Government on human rights and by contributing to the economic and social development of the territory through our development assistance programme.

You have also commented on the use made of my radio interview in December last year by the Indonesian delegation to the 41st session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. I derived the remarks which I made in the interview, from a report based on the personal observations of our Ambassador to Indonesia and on his discussions with a wide range of people familiar with conditions in East Timor. If the Indonesian delegation had brought the full text of my interview to the attention of the Commission, instead of quoting selectively from it, then the tenor of my remarks on human rights conditions in East Timor would have been quite clear.

Yours sincerely

David Lange